

Corporate watchdog Jason Garcia has uncovered a number of gems pouring through the voluminous proposed state budget including \$500,000 for researchers that could set the stage for the removal of the Rodman Dam and freeing the Ocklawaha River. Doing so has been a “Top 5” environmental issue in Florida for 50 years.

LINK: https://jasongarcia.substack.com/p/floridas-new-budget-sets-the-stage?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=687064&post_id=142409791&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=1x9rca&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

The UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County Agriculture and Natural Resources warns Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) is invading Amelia Island. It’s holding a public meeting on March 13 (with free pizza) to educate the public and organize a plan of action to combat the invasive plant.

DETAILS: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/high-alert-giant-reed-arundo-donax-invading-amelia-island-tickets-857370116097?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwAR3oSq5TyS8PaJnyReW3ula_4N7caiCqLVqWAol3p3SqRZlyz-AA-jDNT0

The Florida legislature has passed a measure banning the intentional release of balloons. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Nick DiCeglie (R-St. Petersburg) and Rep. Linda Chaney (R-St. Pete Beach), passed both chambers with overwhelming bipartisan support and will now go to Governor DeSantis’ desk to be signed into law.

Good news for sea turtles and birds who often mistake these items for food and/or become entangled in them.

More good news out of the legislature, the House and Senate both agreed to fully fund the acquisition of the Chips Hole property, a major win for protecting Wakulla Springs.

Earlier this year, Southwest Georgia Oil Company applied for a comprehensive plan amendment and zoning change that would allow the construction of a mega-gas station above the Chip’s Hole cave system, which leads directly to Wakulla Springs. After 400 people showed up to the Wakulla County Commission meeting, the commissioners tabled the decision.

The Wakulla Springs Alliance and local advocates worked tirelessly in opposing the gas station and seeing this land acquisition through.

Southern California’s largest water supplier has launched a rebate program offering residents and businesses up to \$500 as an incentive to plant trees. Trees that conserve water. The water company already incentivizes residents to replace turfgrass lawns with drought tolerant alternatives.

The entire US West broadly, and Southern California in particular, teeters on the brink of a dangerous water shortage with an increasing population and industrial agriculture taking more water out than Mother Nature has been putting in.

This is a great example of how “green” initiatives – nature based – are superior to “grey” initiatives – manufactured/engineered/construction – when confronting environmental challenges.

Imagine Florida doing the same.

LINK: <https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2024-03-06/plant-a-tree-get-100-under-new-mwd-program>

Seminole County will turn a former golf course into a park and wetlands.

Imagine.

LINK: https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2024/03/05/seminole-looks-to-turn-former-deer-run-golf-course-back-into-wetlands/?lctg=D433B512746134193427B5942B&utm_email=D433B512746134193427B5942B&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=https%3a%2f%2fwww.orlandosentinel.com%2f2024%2f03%2f05%2fseminole-looks-to-turn-former-deer-run-golf-course-back-into-wetlands%2f&utm_campaign=Orlando-Morning-Report&utm_content=curated
